



**Laforce Alphonse J**

Alphonse Joseph Laforce was born on October 31 1923 in Legal, AB, as the son of Louis Laforce and Leona Laforce-Blanchard.

I was a big family because Alphonse had four brothers and six sisters. His mother died in 1943.

Alphonse was a stableman at a farm and a beekeeper.

He enlisted in March 1943 and he wanted to become a paratrooper, but he did not have enough skills for that. He followed the military basic training in Camrose, AB and later the Corps training for infantry. Alphonse became a member of Loyal Edmonton Regiment ( 'The Loyal Eddie's'). He became a male nurse/brancardier and took care of the wounded at the battlefield.

He went overseas to the UK in June 1944 and then to Italy. He was wounded in January 1945 but he recovered. He received the Military Medal in February 1945.

The Loyal Eddies went in March 1945 to NW Europe and in the last phase of the war they fought in the Netherlands. During the crossing in April 1945 of the river IJssel near the village of Gorssel (operation Cannonshot) there were fierce fights. Alphonse was killed in action on Thursday April 12 1945 age 21 near the village of Voorst while caring a wounded soldier and he was then shot in his head.

His father received a telegram on April 19 with the message that his son was killed in action.

Alphonse Joseph Laforce was temporarily buried in Gorssel and was reburied on January 4 1946 in Holten.

At his headstone: Eternal rest Give unto him, O Lord; And let perpetual light Shine upon him

His medals were: the Military Medal, the 1939-1945 Star, the Italy Star, the France and Germany Star, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp, and the War Medal 1939-1945.

Lake La Force was named after him thereafter for his merits by the Canadian government (75 kilometres north east of Faro Yukon)

*"if there are men we should have to thank,  
Then those, without doubt, the male nurses at the battlefield.  
Only protected by a red cross bracelet at their arm  
They cared for the wounded soldiers  
They have given the best of themselves.  
Often while saving a life they lost their own lives."*

Hubert Denis, a French American soldier.

